

Date: Tue, 23 Aug 94 09:31:00 PDT  
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #951  
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest                      Tue, 23 Aug 94                      Volume 94 : Issue    951

Today's Topics:

                    Can you 6M U.S. coast to coast?  
                                FLAME the FCC  
                                GB2RS News format  
                    Help please identifying a signal  
                    IPS Daily Report - 22 August 94  
                                Learning CW (2 msgs)  
    pcfans.zip - Network survey & summaries of keeping PCs cool  
                    Ragchewing conversational protocol  
                                Rat Shat Scanner Ban  
                                Slow Code idea by Wa  
                                U QSL buros - hwsat?  
                                WANTED: OLD MORSE CODE KEYS  
                    XYL Reactions (snicker- Kodak moment)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.  
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Date: 22 Aug 1994 23:46:02 -0400  
From: newstf01.cr1.aol.com!search01.news.aol.com!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: Can you 6M U.S. coast to coast?  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <srphillips.10.000D474B@ccgate.dp.beckman.com>,  
srphillips@ccgate.dp.beckman.com (Steve Phillips) writes:

>Can you 6M U.S. coast to coast?  
>If so, how much power and what antenna type is best?

When there are no propagation enhancements going on, you'll have local communications with considerably better coverage than the higher VHF bands. When the band is open due to Sporadic-E propagation, which can happen anytime, you'll cover about half of the US. When the band is open due to F2 propagation, which happens at peaks of the sunspot-cycle, you can cover the world.

My experience has been with relatively low power 6 meter stations with modest antennas. I've run 1 to 50 watts into dipoles, verticals, and three-element yagis, at heights of usually about 20-30 feet. And I've had a ball on six meters! I monitor FM almost all the time (52.525 MHz simplex) and tune the SSB/CW part of the band whenever the mode strikes or I hear longer-than-usual-ranged activity on FM. All else equal, SSB and CW will outperform FM. But once the band opens, anything goes.

Steve WD8DAS sbjohnston@aol.com

-----  
Date: 23 Aug 1994 09:04:06 -0400  
From: newstf01.cr1.aol.com!search01.news.aol.com!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: FLAME the FCC  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

..In article <33b9mv\$7q7@usenet.INS.CWRU.Edu>,  
..ek207@cleveland.Freenet.Edu (William J. G. Frey) writes:

..My son and I took our no code tech exam on MAY 15 this year. My son  
..is 17 years and was all hyped up about the exam. He wanted to pass  
..badly. Well, he did, he passed both parts with 100%. I did not as  
..but passed anyway.

..Now, 14 weeks later we still do not have our licenses. Vacation passed  
..where we could have used our radios, other times passed, but still no  
..license. A call to the ARRL only confirmed that they sent the results  
..to the FCC. Otherwise they do not do anything for your dues.

..What is taking the FCC so long? Anyone else any good ideas to fire up  
..some action from those lazy bastards? But like they say, government  
..workers (an oxymoron) are the lowest of all.

..Had to get this of my (mild mannered otherwise) chest.

--  
..Bill and Tim . . . . Father and Son  
..Hard core railfans and photographers  
..No track is safe from us, anywhere, anytime.

Have you by chance called the FCC license bureau in Gettysburg, Penn. The number is 1-717-337-1212. Maybe there was a mistake. And, what did you expect the ARRL to do?

Jeff, KE4AUT

-----  
Date: Mon, 22 Aug 1994 12:49:42 +0000  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!  
europa.eng.gtefsd.com!emory!metro.atlanta.com!mhv.net!news.sprintlink.net!demon!  
llondel.demon.co.uk!dave@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: GB2RS News format  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have received various requests from non-UK amateurs for copies of the GB2RS news to be sent to them so they can upload it onto their local packet system. On that basis, I am considering changing the format of what appears on Usenet to be the file I use for import to my packet BBS, with all the 'SB NEWS @ GBR' etc headers, complete with BIDs. It will break the news up a bit but it will make it easier for those wanting to put it on their local network.

Anyone got any comments or preferences?

One small point - please \*do not\* do something daft like send it @WW because that will cause me to revert to the current format. Weekly news is totally unsuited to such a distribution, based the amount of WW junk which arrives here at least a week after it was originally posted.

Dave

--

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* G4WRW @ GB7WRW.#41.GBR.EU AX25 \*  
\* dave@llondel.demon.co.uk Internet \* Stop the World! I want to get off! \*  
\* g4wrw@g4wrw.ampr.org Amprnet \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: 23 Aug 94 08:41:49 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!pipex!bt!sol!  
news@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Help please identifying a signal

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article 7378@stonix.demon.co.uk, richard@stonix.demon.co.uk (Richard Lamont) writes:

> pbell@axion.bt.co.uk (Allan Bell) writes:

>

>

> >Can anyone help me identify a signal please. During a meteor watch  
> >on 144.975 MHz I picked up two long bursts of an FSK morse signal  
> >between 19:39 UT and 19:42 UT Friday 12 August. It was 2 to 3 KHz  
> >high of my listening frequency. The signal consisted of 5 character  
> >groups of what appeared to be random letters. The data rate is quite  
> >high, much higher than normal practice transmissions.

>

>

> What are these characters then?

>

If you read the original post, I believe he said "random letters".

Francis

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Date: Mon, 22 Aug 1994 23:15:57 GMT

From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!galaxy.ucr.edu!library.ucla.edu!agate!msuinfo!  
harbinger.cc.monash.edu.au!news.cs.su.oz.au!metro!ipso!rwc@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: IPS Daily Report - 22 August 94

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

SUBJ: IPS DAILY SOLAR AND GEOPHYSICAL REPORT

ISSUED AT 22/2330Z AUGUST 1994 BY IPS RADIO AND SPACE SERVICES  
FROM THE REGIONAL WARNING CENTRE (RWC), SYDNEY.

SUMMARY FOR 22 AUGUST AND FORECAST FOR 23 AUGUST - 25 AUGUST

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1A. SOLAR SUMMARY

Activity: very low

Flares: none.

Observed 10.7 cm flux/Equivalent Sunspot Number : 71/6

GOES satellite data for 21 Aug

Daily Proton Fluence >1 MeV: 5.4E+05

Daily Proton Fluence >10 MeV: 1.3E+04

Daily Electron Fluence >2 MeV: 1.0E+07

X-ray background: A2.0

Fluence (flux accumulation over 24hrs)/ cm2-ster-day.

# 1B. SOLAR FORECAST

	23 Aug	24 Aug	25 Aug
Activity	Very low	Very low	Very low
Fadeouts	None expected	None expected	None expected

Forecast 10.7 cm flux/Equivalent Sunspot Number for 23 Aug: 70/5

# 2A. MAGNETIC SUMMARY

Geomagnetic field at Learmonth: quiet to unsettled

Estimated Indices : A	K	Observed A Index 21 Aug
Learmonth	7 2122 2223	
Fredericksburg	7	8
Planetary	7	8

Observed Kp for 21 Aug: 3211 3321

# 2B. MAGNETIC FORECAST

DATE	Ap	CONDITIONS
23 Aug	10	Quiet to unsettled
24 Aug	15	Unsettled to active
25 Aug	10	Quiet to unsettled

COMMENT: Brief active periods are possible on 23-25 Aug.

# 3A. GLOBAL HF PROPAGATION SUMMARY

	LATITUDE BAND		
DATE	LOW	MIDDLE	HIGH
22 Aug	normal	normal	normal

PCA Event : None.

# 3B. GLOBAL HF PROPAGATION FORECAST

	LATITUDE BAND		
DATE	LOW	MIDDLE	HIGH
23 Aug	normal	normal	normal
24 Aug	normal	normal	normal-fair
25 Aug	normal	normal	normal-fair

# 4A. AUSTRALIAN REGION IONOSPHERIC SUMMARY

Observed

DATE	T-index	MUFs at Sydney
22 Aug	22	near predicted monthly values

Predicted Monthly T-index for August: 20

# 4B. AUSTRALIAN REGION IONOSPHERIC FORECAST

DATE	T-index	MUFs
------	---------	------

23 Aug 20 Near predicted monthly values  
24 Aug 20 Near predicted monthly values  
25 Aug 18 Near predicted monthly values

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IPS Regional Warning Centre, Sydney |IPS Radio and Space Services  
RWC Duty Forecaster tel: +61 2 4148329 |PO Box 5606  
Recorded Message tel: +61 2 4148330 |West Chatswood NSW 2057  
email: rwc@ips.oz.au fax: +61 2 4148331 |AUSTRALIA

-----  
Date: 23 Aug 1994 01:47:58 -0500  
From: cs.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: Learning CW  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Learning CW with a computer is just fine.  
But: Don't trust your computer/program blindly. Let an experienced CW op  
check your program running on your computer. I've heard terrible CW made  
by PCs and other computers.

I was infortunate enough to start learning from a set of tapes...  
That's hard cuz u learn the texts by heart after a few repititions.  
(But it's still better than poor code if there's something wrong with  
ur computer.)

Anyway, I found it a relief to switch from the tapes to a computer.

The transition to the real world did not seem to be a real problem.  
After all, you don't start QS0ing with hard-to-read DX or QRP stns.  
Problems arise most of all from the fact that the station you want  
to copy is not necessarily on the freq where u expect it.  
It's like driving a car, if you're not used to do it you think  
you have to do so many things at the same time.

- searching the right qrg
- identifying the station
- writing down the code
- writing the data in the log
- thinking about what u wanna reply...

But everybody can manage this after a little while. Perseverance  
is the key word. IT'S WORTH IT.

73 de Martin, martin.zurn@cen.jrc.it

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Date: 23 Aug 1994 01:38:12 -0500  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!news.cerf.net!nntp-server.caltech.edu!news.claremont.edu!  
elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Learning CW  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Learning CW with a computer is just fine.  
But: Don't trust your computer/program blindly. Let an experienced CW op  
check your program running on your computer. I've heard terrible CW made  
by PCs and other computers.

I was infortunate enough to start learning from a set of tapes...  
That's hard cuz u learn the texts by heart after a few reptitions.

So I found it a relief to switch over to a computer...

The transition to the real world did not seem to be a real problem.

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Date: Tue, 23 Aug 1994 01:26:50 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!mvb.saic.com!MathWorks.Com!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!  
howland.reston.ans.net!wupost!simtel.coast.net!msdos-ann-request@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: pcfans.zip - Network survey & summaries of keeping PCs cool  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have uploaded to the SimTel Software Repository (available by anonymous  
ftp from the primary mirror site OAK.Oakland.Edu and its mirrors):

SimTel/misc/info/  
pcfans.zip        Network survey & summaries of keeping PCs cool

PCFANS.ZIP is an 85+ response survey about PC fan designs and success or  
failure at keeping one's PC cool. Respondent messages and two summaries  
(one technical and one highlighting network ops) are included. All  
solicitations and collection were done over the Amateur packet radio  
network and the study gives an interesting numerical analysis of network  
response time.

FreeText.    Uploaded by the author.

Brian Mork  
bmork@opus-ovh.spk.wa.us  
ka9snf@ka7fvv.#ewa.wa.usa  
USMail 6006-B Eaker, Fairchild, WA 99011  
V:509-244-3764    D:509-244-9260

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Date: 22 Aug 94 15:14:50 EDT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!library.ucla.edu!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!  
emory!dragon!indigo!hayes!bcoleman@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Ragchewing conversational protocol  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1994Aug17.131338.22641@ke4zv.atl.ga.us>, gary@ke4zv.atl.ga.us (Gary Coffman) writes:

>  
> Ah, but you \*can\* remain silent if you have nothing to contribute.  
> That happens all the time on our repeater. We may have a dozen  
> stations in QSO, and none may have anything of interest to say at a  
> particular moment, so we all remain silent. Sooner or later, someone  
> will have something to say and conversation will pick back up hot and  
> heavy. We eschew strict rotation format because that does tend to lead  
> to banal comments and stilted conversation.

True. But the only down side to this method of repeater use is the incredible number of doubles. (or even Triples!) Then everyone wastes more time repeating what they just said, or sending transmissions to ensure that what they said got through.

Once you get used to it, it is kinda nice not having to wait around for your turn in the rotation. And if you are feeling introspective, you can not say anything, or quitely signoff.

> Well of course contests remove the problem by removing the necessity  
> of having \*content\* in the conversation. It's just a meaningless  
> formalized exchange, over quickly, and on to the next station so the  
> same contentless exchange can be repeated ad infinitum, ad nauesam.

Oh, come on, Gary. The best part of contests is the fun, not the exchange. And even in the hottest 'tests, even the best contest ops take a few minutes to toss off a quick comment on occasion. It isn't all meaningless exchanges.

Contests may not be for everyone, but they can be fun for a lot of folks.

--

Bill Coleman, AA4LR                               ! Internet: bcoleman@hayes.com  
Principal Software Engineer                   ! AppleLink: D1958  
Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.   ! CIS: 76067,2327  
POB 105203 Atlanta, GA 30348 USA   !  
Disclaimer: "My employer doesn't pay me to have opinions."  
Quote: "The same light shines on vineyards that makes deserts." -Steve Hackett.

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Date: 23 Aug 1994 03:50:50 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!munnari.oz.au!yarrina.connect.com.au!  
harbinger.cc.monash.edu.au!yeshua.marcam.com!charnel.ecst.csuchico.edu!nic-  
nac.CSU.net!g9153402@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Rat Shat Scanner Ban  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

David Harpe (david\_harpe@mm.cobb.ziff.com) wrote:

> The ECPA makes using the gear illegal. This is impossible to enforce  
> widespread, and the legal folks know it. So they took the next logical  
> step: Cut it off at the source. They made it illegal to MANUFACTURE  
> equipment which is capable of receiving the forbidden bands. So most  
> manufacturers modified their scanners so that reception could be enabled  
> or disabled by adding or cutting a simple jumper. It was cheap, and it  
> followed the letter of the law. (I'm one of those who thinks that the  
> manufacturers used this method because it was the most cost effective  
> solution to an engineering problem...NOT to protect scanner enthusiasts).  
> But the legal guys didn't like what was happening. They saw just as many  
> scanners being used, and an entirely new market being created for  
> modifications. Not only that, scanner usage might actually have  
> INCREASED. Some people probably got a kick out of it more since they  
> had to pop the thing open and cut a "secret wire" (sort of like the bozos  
> who used CB radios with Linears).  
> So, the legal folks made it illegal to manufacture equipment which is  
> "EASILY MODIFIABLE" to receive the forbidden frequencies. So now the  
> manufacturers have to design their units so that they are practically  
> destroyed if you try to modify them. They do this by sealing key chips  
> in epoxy, blasting new ROMs, etc.  
\*\*\* Stuff Deleted \*\*\*

I agree with you 100%. What you got is a law that's unenforceable. Sort  
of like a law that L.A. County has had for a few months, making it illegal  
to be on a street corner trying to solicit work (day laborers) in  
unincorporated areas. The L.A. County DA's office absolutely refuses  
to even file charges against these day laborers. They just don't  
have the resources, or even the will, to do it. It's just that the  
County Board of Supervisors gave in to a rich group of homeowners who  
claimed the gathering of day laborers lowered their property values.

But here with cell phones, the cell phone industry got these laws  
passed, claiming it was an invasion of privacy. Then those air-head  
bureaucrats in Washington agreed, when they suddenly find out that  
their own cell phones weren't private, as they once thought, so lets  
make a law. Where have these bone-heads been all their lives? Didn't  
they realize a cell phone is just a sophisticated two-way radio, and  
anyone who tuned into the right frequency in the area where one is

operating can hear it. Passing laws just won't do a thing about it. There are already millions of scanners and other radio receivers out there that can receive this stuff. Passing a law ain't going to help one bit. I feel absolutely no pity for the cell phone industry. If they really wanted a reasonably secure cell phone network, the networks would be 100% digital by now. Instead, they lobby to have laws passed to cover their own mistakes. It's enough to make me throw-up...

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Date: Mon, 22 Aug 94 15:55:00 -0500  
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!swrinde!emory!metro.atlanta.com!mhv.net!  
news.sprintlink.net!news.infi.net!exchange!john.tant@ames.arpa  
Subject: Slow Code idea by Wa  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Al "alanb@hpnmarb.sr.hp.com"

>The problem is that the tougher theory test just won't happen. It is much  
>more politically palatable to make exams easier. The no-code Technician  
>is a good example: not only was the code test deleted but the written test  
>was actually made simpler. (In the old days, the Tech and General written  
>exams were the same.)

>AL N1AL

Al,

In the "old days" for which you pine, the Tech wasn't an entry-level license, most hams weren't doing packet, FSTV or facsimile. Dr. Debakey hadn't done the first heart transplant and we were smack dab in the midst of a cold war with a rival superpower. Nobody had computers in their homes, so there wasn't fidonet, usenet or internet. Gallstones had to be removed with surgery (instead of ultrasonics), the use of lasers in surgery was unheard of and there were a lot of things we have now which improve our quality of life which didn't exist back then.

The no-code license wasn't available when I got my license either. It is now. Welcome the newcomers, otherwise there won't be a hobby to pass on when you assume "room temperature."

John, N4XAN (adv. class - learned 13 wpm for the license in 1990, haven't used it 3 times since)

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\* WR # 365 \* Alas, poor tagline. I wrote it well.....

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Date: 23 Aug 1994 01:30:52 -0500  
From: cs.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: U QSL buros - hwsat?  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hello there,

Is there anybody out there who has an idea about the present state of the QSL bureaus in UA/UR/EU/EY/4L/UN etc.

Hams in these areas give contradictory indications.  
Some say: QSL SURE = PSE QSL  
Others say: QSL ONLY DIRECT

The Italian ARI journal RR claims that last month 10 kgs of QSLs have been send to the Ukrainian QSL bureau.  
However, my response rate of QSLs to UA and UR dropped to almost zero.

What are your experiences? Which bureaus are non-active?

Ciao de IK2RMZ, Martin, martin.zurn@cen.jrc.it

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Date: 23 Aug 1994 02:09:26 GMT  
From: agate!howland.reston.ans.net!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!news.umbc.edu!eff!wariat.org!malgudi.oar.net!news.ysu.edu!yfn.ysu.edu!ap451@ames.arpa  
Subject: WANTED: OLD MORSE CODE KEYS  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I'm looking to buy old Morse Code keys. Email with what you've got.

Thanks and "73"...

Randy Padawer

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Randy Padawer, P.O. Box 1167, Knoxville, TN 37901-1167 U.S.of A  
Internet: ap451@yfn.ysu.edu America Online: GwRepRandy  
Telephone: (615) 637-7263 Ham Radio op: WA4FJF & a groovy guy.

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Date: 23 Aug 94 15:14:43 GMT  
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu

Subject: XYL Reactions (snicker- Kodak moment)  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>I would be very hesitant to put any electronic equipment in a dishwasher.  
>Don't forget that  
>it is assembled with lead solder. I imagine that you will end up with  
>measurable amounts of  
>lead on your next load of dishes.  
>Steven Hunter KC6RKV

lets see, the solder melts around 370 deg or so. there might be some pieces  
that break off and there probably are more soluable things in a piece of gear.

All the water goes down the drain, so what leaches out is disposed of, if any.

If you run the washer through a few cycles of fill/drain, that should do it  
(assuming that you start with fresh water everytime.)

I'd probably worry more about the Jet-Dry

bill wb9ivr

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Date: 22 Aug 1994 13:08:24 -0700  
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!newsxfer.itd.umich.edu!  
zip.eecs.umich.edu!yeshua.marcam.com!news.kei.com!ssd.intel.com!chnews!  
ornews.intel.com!ornews.@@ihnp4.ucsd.edu  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <32uh3q\$h2g@charm.magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu>,  
<3303i4\$3re@theopolis.orl.mmc.com>, <jchandleCutCGx.8FK@netcom.com>s.umich  
Subject : Re: VHF: non-FM

In article <jchandleCutCGx.8FK@netcom.com> jchandle@netcom.com (James W Chandler  
III) writes:

> ... I have an IC-211 that I  
>got less than 6 months ago and it cost me \$225 and it is in great shape.  
>It only puts out 10 Watts but a linear will take care of that problem.  
>Look around, there are good deals to be had if you know where to look!  
>73 and see you on VHF SB.

Now there's a rare rig. I have an Icom 211 also. Very keen green and orange  
multi-concentric dial with 2 speed control knob. But mine had all kinds of  
bad solder joints on the motherboard that were very difficult to find and fix.  
I have a hardly readable blueprint schematic but no location references for  
parts. Icom is no help. I've fixed most problems and it works okay but

probably needs alignment of the approximately 100 pots, coils, and caps.  
I was told that I have one of only two IC-211's sold in the NorthWest.  
I can't find any ads for it in my collection of Early 70's magazines.  
Oh, I beat you on price. I paid \$35 for mine.

--

zardoz@ornews.intel.com WA7LDV  
I speak only for myself.

Leave it to the BEAVER state  
<<< OREGON >>>

-----  
Date: 23 Aug 1994 15:59:18 GMT  
From: nothing.ucsd.edu!brian@network.ucsd.edu  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <3303i4\$3re@theopolis.orl.mmc.com>, <jchandleCutCGx.8FK@netcom.com>,  
<33b0k9\$b31@ornews.intel.com>  
Subject : Re: VHF: non-FM

In the early days of the Japanese-built ham 2m radios, bad solder joints  
were very common causes of rigs showing up on the warrantee repair bench  
I used to run.

After the pattern became obvious, I began resoldering the entire board  
with a small propane torch. Radios worked fine and few of them ever had  
to be repaired again.

- Brian

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End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #951  
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